

Background

Be sure to read the Foreword to the last lesson for some introductory information on Genesis and this study. Just like chapter 1, there's a lot of major content in here, so prepare to dig in.

Read Genesis 2:1-7

Q (v1-3): Did the omnipotent God really need a rest?

cf. Is 40:28

Q: Then what was the purpose of the Sabbath ("rest")?

cf. Ex 31:13, Mk 2:27

v4 While chapter 1 was an overview of the six days of creation, chapter 2:4+ takes a step back to start a more detailed retelling of the creation of man and his relationship with God.

v6 The original word for "mist" is hard to translate. In short, it doesn't appear that rain was a thing yet. God was irrigating the planet through dew or small springs...i.e., water from below, not above.

Q (v7): What differences do you see in how man was created vs everything else?

Read Genesis 2:8-17

Q (v8 & 10-14): Where was Eden located?

v9a God's creation wasn't purely practical...He made some things purely to be pleasing to our senses.

Q (v9b): What's the deal with the trees? Did they have magic powers? Why leave them there?

Q (v15): How did God plan for Adam to spend his free time?

Q (v16-17): Was God lying when He said that Adam would die if He ate of the forbidden fruit?

Read Genesis 2:18-25

v18-20 is the first time God says that something isn't right with creation. In dramatic Father-and-son fashion, God then brings the already created, but unnamed animals to Adam. As they pass by, Adam names them, using the authority given to him by God. However, we can easily picture Adam coming to the realization of v20b: "Two of them, two of them, two of them...one of me...two of them...one of me..." God was setting His son up for one of the best gifts ever (*see Mt 6:8b*).

Q (v18): Does this verse indicate that woman is inferior to man?

v21 In *Gen 15:12*, Abraham also enters a "deep sleep" by the hand of God but appears to have remained semi-aware of what God was doing during that time. It may be possible that Adam also observed, in some form, as God fashioned his perfect bride.

Q (v21): Why would God create the woman from the man's rib? Why not from dirt, like Adam was?

Q (v22-23): Who selected the woman? Who brought the two together?

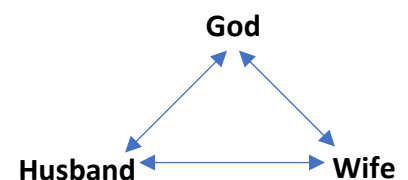
What was man doing (before the divinely-administered sedation, anyway)?

v23 "This is now" can be translated "At last!" Adam now saw someone similar to himself, and yet different. Enchanting, enthralling, beautiful. This is what would make him complete. This is what he didn't know he needed until God figuratively dropped her in his lap.

v23 Adam continues in His right to name God's creations. However, he gave her a name matching his own, indicating parity.

v23-24 You're seeing here the institution of marriage (*Mt 19:3-6*). God brought one man and one woman together to be joined for their lifetimes. This joining wasn't just hugging or having sex. Marriage is becoming one in all areas of life: spiritual, mental, emotional, financial and only last: physical. Sex is not a purely physical event, despite what cultural revolutions or hedonists may say – it is a joining of souls, for lack of a better term. Doing things out of order or in an incomplete manner results in relational problems (some secular science is even acknowledging neural changes brought about by premarital or extramarital relations, causing future relationships to be less rewarding/harder to maintain).

Further, this joining includes a separation from previous attachments. Parents become occasional advisors and not rulers. Best friends become normal friends. The bride and the groom seek God first, spouse second, and themselves last, often portrayed in the triangle shown to the right.



Finally, God's desired result of healthy marriage is godly children and thus, a godly society (*Deut 6:1-9*). Do you see why Christians are so protective of God's plan for marriage and sexuality?

Do you see what happens to the world when we abandon God's plan as being inconvenient or archaic?

Read *Eph 5:22-32* to see that the picture of marriage is also a picture of Christ's relationship to the church.

Q (v18-24): But why wasn't God good enough for Adam?

v25 In their innocence, the couple was comfortable with their nakedness, physically and otherwise. There was no keeping of secrets or shame in talking about feelings, etc. Thanks to sin (coming in the next chapter), this is very difficult for us to accomplish now, even in a faithful Christian marriage.

There's an implication that sexual relations may have been part of this. It's unlikely that the conception of their first child in chapter 4 was their first sexual experience together.